

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use with a computer system having an operating system and a nonvolatile storage device, comprising the steps of:

creating a boot engineering extension record (BEER) on the nonvolatile storage device;

5 configuring the boot engineering extension record to have SETMAX pointer that points to a user area of the nonvolatile storage device and a service area pointer that points to a PARTIES service area that is part of a host protected area of the nonvolatile storage device;

10 storing data derived from the removable storage media device in the PARTIES service area, which data will be used in an emulated removable storage media device; and  
configuring an operating system to access the PARTIES service area so that the data stored therein is presented to a user as if it were derived from an emulated removable storage media device.

2. The method recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

configuring the operating system to access the user area to provide access to applications and data of a user of the computer system.

3. Computer software for use with a computer system having an operating system and a nonvolatile storage device, comprising:

a code segment that creates a boot engineering extension record (BEER) on the nonvolatile storage device;

5 a code segment that configures the boot engineering extension record to have SETMAX pointer that points to a user area of the hard disk drive and a service area pointer that points to a PARTIES service area that is part of a host protected area of the nonvolatile storage device;

10 a code segment that stores data derived from the removable storage media device in the PARTIES service area, which data will be used in an emulated removable storage media device; and

a code segment that configures an operating system to access the PARTIES service area so that it is presented to a user as being derived from an emulated removable storage media device.

4. The computer software recited in Claim 3 further comprising a code segment that configures the operating system to access the user area to provide access to applications and data of a user of the computer system.

5. A computer system comprising  
 a central processing unit;  
 a system memory;  
 a nonvolatile storage device;  
 5 an operating system; and  
 computer software that creates a boot engineering extension record (BEER) on the nonvolatile storage device, configures the boot engineering extension record to have SETMAX pointer that points to a user area of the hard disk drive and a service area pointer that points to a PARTIES service area that is part of a host protected area of the  
 10 nonvolatile storage device, stores data derived from the removable storage media device in the PARTIES service area, which data will be used in an emulated removable storage media device, and configures an operating system to access the PARTIES service area so that it is presented to a user as being derived from an emulated removable storage media device.

6. The computer system recited in Claim 5 wherein the computer software also configures the operating system to access the user area to provide access to applications and data of a user of the computer system.